

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming multiple simultaneous active wireless connections between a wireless client and two or more separate wireless access points in a wireless local area network, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining, by the wireless client, a first primary active affiliation between the wireless client and a first primary wireless access point in the wireless local area network, the first primary wireless access point providing ongoing communication services to the wireless client by sending data to the wireless client and receiving data from the wireless client on the first primary active affiliation being a first connection that the wireless client may use to send data to the first wireless access point over the wireless local area network;

obtaining, by the wireless client, a second primary active affiliation between the wireless client and a second primary wireless access point in the wireless local area network, the second primary wireless access point providing ongoing communication services to the wireless client by sending data to the wireless client and receiving data from the wireless client on the second primary active affiliation;

maintaining and using, by the wireless client, the first primary active affiliation between the wireless client and the first primary wireless access point in the wireless local area network and the second primary active affiliation between the wireless client and the second primary wireless access point in the wireless local area network during a period of operation of the wireless client when the wireless client is not engaging in a handoff process between access points while also locating, by the wireless client, at least a second wireless access point in the wireless local area network;

engaging, by the wireless client, at least one of the located second wireless access points in the wireless local area network to form at least a second active affiliation between the wireless client and the second wireless access point in the wireless local area network, the second active affiliation being a second connection that the wireless client may also use to send data to the second wireless access point over the wireless local area network, while still maintaining the primary active affiliation between the wireless client and the first wireless access point in the wireless local area network, such that the wireless client simultaneously may use either the primary active affiliation or the second active affiliation to send data on the wireless local area network.

Claims 2-3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising the step of locating ~~second access~~ additional wireless access points ~~comprises~~ by scanning beacon signals from other wireless access points.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining ~~a primary~~ the first primary active affiliation ~~with the first wireless access point~~ comprises generating a first request to send message and sending the first request to send message to the first primary wireless access point.

Claims 6-7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of obtaining the second primary active affiliation ~~engaging the second wireless access point~~ comprises generating a second request to send message and sending the second request to send message to the second primary wireless access point.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the second request to send message includes identification information about the first primary wireless access point.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising simultaneously receiving first data by the wireless client from the first primary wireless access point and receiving second data from the second primary wireless access point.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of receiving the second data from the second access point is initiated before the step of receiving the first data from the first wireless access point has been completed.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the wireless client has a first IP address associated with the first primary active affiliation and a second IP address associated with the second primary active affiliation.

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Claims 13-23. (Canceled)